



## NEWS RELEASE

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# WAUSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS RANK 7<sup>TH</sup> NATIONALLY IN TEACHING OF PERSONAL FINANCE

Wausa Public Schools took home a 7<sup>th</sup> place national award for their student test scores on a financial literacy certification test during an event hosted by the New York Stock Exchange.

Administrators, teachers and students from the top ranked schools across the country attended a Working In Support of Education, also called w!se, awards ceremony in New York City on May 20. The event recognized high schools that teach personal finance.

In Wausa, personal finance has been offered primarily to high school seniors for the past 14 years. Wausa Public Schools, however, has only been participating in the w!se program since 2011. Since then, student test score averages have ranged from 78 percent to 87 percent passing, with several students scoring above 90 percent and one student scoring a perfect 100 percent. In 2011 and 2012, Wausa was placed on the top 100 schools in the nation by the w!se organization, a not-for-profit organization in New York City.

Dawn Friedrich, a business teacher at Wausa, and her son, Gavin Friedrich, represented Wausa Public Schools at the national event. Gavin participated in the awards ceremony, speaking about the importance of learning personal finance in high school.

The w!se Financial Literacy Certification Program provides teachers with curriculum and instructional resources to teach personal finance and to measure student knowledge. The w!se program is used for personal finance instruction in classrooms in 28 states.

Two other Nebraska high schools placed in the top 100 BEST w!se High Schools Personal Finance ranking: Arlington High School and Fillmore Central High School. Teresa Feick of Arlington High School and Cindy Talley of Fillmore Central High School also have a record of their students scoring high consistently on the national financial literacy certification test.

"We created the Financial Literacy Certification Program to address the chronic lack of financial literacy among young people," said Phyllis Frankfort, president and CEO of w!se. "It is imperative that students be exposed to personal financial education before they graduate high school, so they have the knowledge and skills to break the cycle of poverty and to start on the path toward financial wellbeing."

Of the more than 250,000 students who have participated in the program, about 75 percent on average pass the certification test every year.

The event featured Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist, Standard & Poor's Equity Research; Pat Kiernan, morning anchor, NY1; Judy Chapa, vice president, Financial Services Roundtable; and Judy Sams, program specialist, Business and Information Technology, Virginia Department of Education.

The Financial Literacy Certification program is supported by institutions including NYSE Euronext Foundation, Inc., The Allstate Foundation, McGraw Hill Financial, Citi Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, The JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Bloomberg, GE Capital Retail Bank, The Utah Division of Securities, kasina, M&T Charitable Foundation, the New York City Council and Signature Bank.